



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attorney General McGraw Sues Arizona Debt Relief Firm; Ask Court to Stop Illegal Telemarketing Practices in WV

CHARLESTON –West Virginia Attorney General Darrell McGraw has asked the Circuit Court of Kanawha County to enjoin an Arizona-based debt relief company from doing business in the state of West Virginia.

On October 19, 2010, McGraw sued Lisa Miller, of Chandler, AZ, owner of Allied Corporate Connection, doing business under the trade name First Secure Management, citing unlawful telemarketing sales of dubious debt relief services to West Virginia consumers

McGraw's office opened an investigation last month after receiving complaints from West Virginia consumers who paid fees of nearly \$1,000 to telemarketers who identified themselves as representatives of First Secure Management and promised to reduce their interest rates, guaranteeing a minimum savings of \$2,000.

McGraw's office discovered that Miller was behind the First Secure Management scheme after the investigation revealed the telemarketing company's address was a private mailbox leased to Lisa Miller of Chandler, AZ, and Allied Corporate Connection, LLC, of Mesa, AZ. McGraw's office subsequently issued an investigative subpoena, but Miller and Allied failed to comply with it.

The Attorney General's suit asks the court to enjoin Miller and her companies from engaging in the illegal sales of debt relief and credit services in West Virginia. The suit also asks that all payments collected from West Virginia consumers be refunded and that Miller and her companies be assessed civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation of West Virginia consumer protection laws.

"There is nothing worse than hitting someone who is already down," Attorney General McGraw said. "That is why my office will aggressively pursue companies that prey upon consumers who are seeking honest solutions to their difficult financial circumstances. Instead of providing the promised help, such unscrupulous businesses simply add even more debt to already stressed credit card accounts."

To file a complaint concerning debt collection, West Virginia consumers should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-368-8808. Complaint forms are also available at www.wvago.gov. For regular consumer news updates, follow the AGO on Facebook and Twitter.

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